



Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission

Pres. – Dave Hacker V. Pres. – Kara Kish
Treasurer – Robert Shepherd Secretary – Dale Brier

November 14, 2018 1:00 pm
The Garrison – Blue Herron Ballroom
6002 N Post Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46216

Attendance

Voting Members Present:

Adams County – Misty Gehres (proxy)
Allen County – Ron Zartman
Carroll County – George Mears
Cass County - Mercedes Brugh (proxy)
Fountain County – Tim Shumaker (alt)
Gibson County – Bill Knowles
Huntington County - Dave Hacker
Knox County – Rama Sobhani
Miami County – Ken Einselen
Posey County – Ralph Weinzapfel
Tippecanoe Co. – Vanessa Rainwater (alt)
Sullivan County – John Gettinger
Vermillion County – Les Zimmerman (alt)
Vigo County – Don Mathias (proxy)
Wabash County – Cindy Einselen (proxy)
Warren County – Steve Eberly
Wells County – Douglas Sundling
DNR – Dale Brier

Advisory Members Present:

None

Guests:

Allen Hurst - DNR
Noelle Szydlyk - Tourism

Counties not represented:

Jay County
Parke County

Meeting minutes

Call to Order, Introductions, Announce Proxies, Open Agenda

President Dave Hacker called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Everyone in attendance introduced himself or herself. Dale Brier announced all the proxies including; Wabash County proxy given to Cindy Einselen, Cass County proxy given to Mercedes Brugh, Adams County proxy given to Misty Gehres, Vigo County proxy given to Don Mathias, and finally Parke County vote was given to Les Zimmerman. There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

Review and Approval of July 11, 2018 Minutes

Sobhani motioned to approve the minutes as written and Mears seconded. Motion passed.

Comments from Visitors or Guests

Dave Hacker gave a wonderful presentation on the now finished project at the Historic Forks of the Wabash, which included a boat ramp, two campsites, and a bridge. The presentation detailed the planning, building, finances, and fundraising for the project. The ribbon cutting ceremony on the bridge occurred Oct 13, 2018. Noelle Szydlyk mentioned that this was a great story and

something that might be shared through tourism. Brier noted that the Montezuma bridge project was also a good idea for that.

Finance Report

Dale Brier handed out the current finance report (see attached). The current balance in the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund (WRHCF) is \$357,616. Brier noted that due to just going through a grant round there were higher than normal administrative costs. Ken Einselen motioned to approve the report, Mears seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report

Bob Shepard provided Dale Brier with the finance report that was handed out to everyone. Brier noted that the report, as usual, is based on the DNR finance report and nothing is out of the ordinary. Hacker inquired whether the funds comes in at a set pace, such as quarterly, to which Brier answered that had never been established. Instead, it is such that as soon as DNR Reclamation gets the royalty check they will process it. Gettinger inquired how much money was is held in the Historic Forks of the Wabash for Wabash River projects fund to which Brier pointed to the line item on the report which shows \$10,764 which could be spent at the discretion of the Wabash Commission.

Committee Reports

Membership – No report.

River Road

Eberly announced that the committee is looking to create a stronger marketing presence on the river corridor webpage. Currently they are building two files, river road routes and the accompanying attractions. Eberly requested content and images from anyone who would be willing to share. Believing DNR currently hosts the current page, Eberly was hoping that the DNR would continue to host and publish the new content. Brier denied the responsibilities citing that already, as is, the Wabash page is hosted outside the DNR and is its own entity. The DNR does maintain the content as requested by Brier or the WRHCC. However, the page is still under IOT rules and it cannot advertise hotels, restaurants, and private business. For this reason, Noelle Szydlyk from tourism was brought in to bring her expertise.

Szydlyk noted that tourism does not currently have the staff to directly help beyond simply sharing the stories and therefore recommend two options. The first would be to bring in an outside contractor to work on the page. The contracted party could be kept on retainer and continually maintain the page, or to do a one-time build and get the website to a place where updates would be simple for a member to update. Another possibility Szydlyk presented was having hobbyists, groups, or regional entities taking on leadership in marketing and championing the website. She further offered to put out a “feeler” to see if any tourism groups would be willing to take this on.

Szydlyk recommends keeping the current page for general informational purposes but have the River Road and tourism driven page be its own separate thing. Lastly, Brier stressed the importance of ensuring photos are yours to use and not simply pulled from online. Permission, which may include payment, is required to use someone else’s photo. Know where the photo came from, obtain permission if needed, or use your own.

News and Media – No report.

Grants

Brier announced that there were four applications for trail projects and the grants team were putting the finishing touches on the ranking and scoring. Brier hopes that the grants team will reach out in the next few weeks on who received funding. Bob Bronson, grants chief, should be at the next Wabash meeting to officially present on them. Upon inquiry, Brier noted the applications for the trail projects came from Merom, Bluffton, Huntington County, and Vermillion County. Hacker commented that Bronson noted that the new \$90 million, part of the Next Level Trails initiative, might be available to use for these projects. Further information about these monies should be available late November or early December. Brugh question if the Wabash commission could apply for grant money for planning purposes to which Brier replied the \$90 will be going towards putting trail on the ground and would not be available for planning alone.

Nominating – Brier presented the report from the nominating committee that came up with two names for recommendations in 2019. Steve Eberly for president and Dave Hacker for VP. Hacker notes that these establish a tentative ballot for next meeting but it remains open for further nominations next meeting should anyone be interested.

Old Business

River Curriculum – No report.

Previous Funding Requests

Huntington County SWCD – A request for a river clean-up requesting for \$1,000. The event occurred and went well. Gettinger moved to approve the project, Sobhani seconded. Weinzapfel asked if approving an event after its completion would set a precedent. Hacker replied this funding method was been utilized on a few occasions citing a case with Posey County specifically. Hacker continued this is not the preferred way to operate but an OK way to do it. The commission approved the funding. Hacker follows up the vote with the actual report of the event. Volunteers removed over 900 pounds of garbage from the mile and a half section of the Little River.

New Business

New Funding Requests

Brier announced there are two requests, both from Tippecanoe County. Vanessa Rainwater presented the two events to the commission. The first is a Field Day for fourth graders on the river in which volunteers set up five to six stations for educating the children about many different aspects of natural resources.

The second event Rainwater presented was the Wabash River Fest, which will be held in West Lafayette and Lafayette. The event has a little something for everyone. Education for those wishing to learn how to paddle, canoe races, a farmers market, volleyball tournaments, and float trips.

2019 Officer Elections

Already having been covered, Hacker simply reminded the commission that the election of officers would take place next meeting.

2019 Meeting Locations

Brier announced Cass County will host the January meeting, then opened it opened it up for members to volunteer to host future meetings.

- Gettinger offered to host in Sullivan County for March.
- Schumaker offered to host Mays meeting in Fountain County.
- Mears offered to host July's meeting in Carroll County.
- Sundling offered to host September's meeting at Wells County.

Since nobody volunteered, it was decided November's meeting would be undecided for now and will be discussed again at the January meeting. If no one volunteers for it, Brier noted Indianapolis could be used for it.

Announcements & General Reminders/Discussion

Other announcements and final comments

- Gettinger regretted to inform the commission that Sullivan's yearly river expedition with eighth graders was called off due to weather and the subsequent rising waters. An event that did happen was the Nature's Classroom with fourth graders. Gettinger reported that 2/3 of those children have never seen the river until that event. Lastly, Gettinger announced the mural is finished in Merom.
- Mercedes Brugh reported on happenings in Logansport, which is addressing safety on their trails. The two big projects the city is working on are trail markings and trail security cameras. Each of the three big trails will have their own markers with unique color and logos for the trail they represent. The plan for the security cameras is to install nine cameras on 60-foot poles that will feed to the police station. The city council and the hospital foundation has already provided some funds. They will launch a Patronicity campaign, an online crowd fund website, in February.
- Hacker announced that the Hoosier Environmental Council is having a meeting about general river pollution with an emphasis on the Maumee is occurring Saturday, November 17.

Adjournment

Sobhani motioned to adjourn the meeting, Knowles seconded. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Next Meeting: January 9, 2019 at 1:00 pm.
Cass County
Riverside Park - McHale Pavilion
1212 Riverside Drive
Logansport, IN 46947

48686 Wabash River Heritage Corridor Fund

FY19 as of 10/31/2018

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
431401	AD - Oil and Gas royalty along		\$ 44,283.00
510101	Payroll Salaries & Wages	\$ 4,833.00	
516003	Payroll Social Security	\$ 344.00	
517003	Payroll Perf St Pd Em COntr	\$ 145.00	
517005	Payroll PERF State Share	\$ 541.00	
518105	Anthem CDHP1	\$ 1,063.00	
518606	Payroll Life Insurance	\$ 7.00	
518796	Payroll Anthem Dental Trad	\$ 47.00	
518800	Anthem Vision	\$ 3.00	
518901	Payroll Employee Assistance	\$ 1.00	
519006	Payroll Long Term Disability	\$ 45.00	
519503	Payroll Def Comp - StateMatch	\$ 28.00	
519721	Payroll Health Savings Acct 1	\$ 73.00	
541002	Mot Veh Ex - Gasoline	\$ 30.00	
546002	Off-Office Supplies		
592022	AdmOp-Late Payment Interest	\$ 1.00	
595110	InState Travel - Mileage	\$ 2,405.00	
595120	InState Travel - Per Diem&Meal	\$ 156.00	
595130	InState Travel - Lodging	\$ 347.00	
595170	InState Travel - Parking&Tolls	\$ 3.00	
599036	AdmOp-PostageMeter/Potage	\$ 240.00	
599116	AdmOp-Event Sponsor	\$ 3,000.00	

Total FY19 Expense To Date: \$ 13,312.00

Fund Balance:		
	7/1/2018	326,645
FY19 revenues		44,283
FY19 Expenses		13,312
balance as of 10/31/2018		357,616

DNR payroll	\$ 7,130.00
travel costs	\$ 2,912.00
sponsorships	\$ 3,000.00
operating	\$ 270.00
Total	\$ 13,312.00